

MAIL ROOM



CS 97-5

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 5, 1997

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

I am writing to you to express my views on the rating system that you have just recently released in January of 1997. The long awaited system, I found personally, were disappointing. These much praised reviews of television shows will help alarm parents of what their child is about to watch. Some ratings are highly overexaggerated.

Recently I sat down to watch my favorite shows, Beverly Hills 90210. In the opening sequence, a little box appeared in the corner that read T.V. 14. I had noticed what that meant because I was not aware of the rating systems. The television industry should of had an introduction to the system, to make people more aware, and how it could help them.

There are advantages to this system that could help people. One important advantage is the ratings give people an idea of what type of show it is, and whether or not it is appropriate for their children to watch. Disadvantages of this system is that sometimes programs seem unacceptable for children to watch, but may teach an important lesson such as teen, sex and drugs.

A solution to this problem, when the rating of the program is shown, a little light bulb should also be shown to make people aware that this show teaches a important lesson. If my suggestions are taken into serious thought, I think you will receive a positive feedback on the system. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Morgan Sanzo  
11th grade.

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABOVE

FEDERAL MAIL ROOM

MAR 11 1997



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern:

The need for some sort of rating system for television is evident, but the newly developed system is neither effective nor helpful for parents who are concerned about what their children view. What do the ratings mean? It is not clear why these ratings are given. We need a system that tells what is in the programs, what to look out for. These ratings used now are basically the same as the ratings used for movies. Most parents do not consider what the rating is on movies that kids either watch in theaters or on video. The G, TV 14, and so on are ignored by parents as well. In order for parents to take an active role in instructing their children to be critical of what they see on television, ratings must be straightforward to make the parents' job easier. With the installation of television ratings, we have come one step closer to teaching children about what they see on TV but a revision of this system is needed for it to be beneficial.

Sincerely,

*Heather Kranitz*  
Heather Kranitz

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABOVE \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL ROOM

MAR 11 1997



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To Whom It May Concern:

Hi, my name is Catherine Tseng, and I am currently a junior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. This semester, I am taking a course is Mass Media Ethics, and a major issue that my classmates and I are now discussing is the new television rating system and its advantages and disadvantages. Personally, I believe that the idea of having a rating system is beneficial because it gives parents some knowledge of the material that is being portrayed on television these days and therefore, assisting them in determining what television shows are suitable for their children, but the current codes definitely needs improvements. The present system uses particular age groups and levels of maturity as guidelines for the code, but it does not clarify why individual programs are designated for specific age groups. Although a rating of "TV-M" cautions adults that a certain program is not appropriate for young children, a rating of "TV-7" is not helpful for parents in deciding whether or not a particular film is suitable for their six-year-old child. That is why I believe that the rating system should specify more on programs' contents by stipulating levels of violence, sex, and strong language, By explaining to parents what is actually going to be depicted on television shows and movies, it will be easier for adults to decide what material is appropriate for their children, regardless of age.

I also think that rating icons should appear longer and more often throughout the course of television programs. Besides appearing for fifteen seconds at the beginning of network shows, the icons should appear for at least a few seconds after each commercial break. This will be helpful for viewers who tune into T.V. shows late or who are channel-surfing, browsing for something to watch.

In short, society has made progress in restricting what is appropriate for children to watch on television by adopting a rating system for network programs and movies, but in order to be more effective, the code should be publicized more and should indicate specific levels of violence, sex, and strong language portrayed on television shows.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Catherine Tseng

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABOVE

MAIL ROOM

MAR 11 1997



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

I am a junior currently attending Moreau Catholic High School. I am studying Media Ethics under the instruction of Mr. Larry Long. After reading many articles concerning the rating system, I've decided to express my own opinions regarding the rating system and its progress.

I think that the rating system is a good idea to monitor shows shown on television. The only defect that I see in this system is that having the rating shown for only the first fifteen seconds is not very beneficial due to the fact that parents may miss the rating. The suggestion that I have is to have the rating shown throughout the entire show. Having it in the left hand corner does not affect the enjoyment of the show, therefore, by having the rating shown throughout the show will give parents the opportunity to check on the type of show their child is watching at any time. If this suggestion is followed through, parents will not have an excuse for not knowing what their child is watching. I hope that your company takes my suggestion into consideration. Thank you for your time and please send a reply soon.

sincerely,

Linh Hoang

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

1

FOUNDED 1863

MAR 11 1997



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 5, 1997

I am a high school student at Moreau Catholic High School. I am currently a senior and in a class studying ethics in Media. Recently, we have been talking and evaluating the new television rating system both at school and at home. We are working on a group projects evaluating different shows. Therefore, because of my age, knowledge of television, and the class I am in, I feel my opinion is valid. I think it is obvious something needs to change in television broadcasts and their content.

I was never a person who was restricted from watching movies from "G" to "R". However, since I was real young, my general view of movies and shows on non-cable channels was that they were always bad language, sex, and horror free. However, recently my view of television has changed. It has turned into bad language, sex filled shows that are really unacceptable. The rating systems you are putting out are warnings to viewers, especially children, for things that should not be allowed on television in the first place. The rating system should be put on cable channels, where people expect things like sex and violence to be shown. Non-cable channels that everyone gets should be clear from things like violence and sex. Television clearly influences people, especially kids, therefore regular channels should be clear of these types of shows. Parents used to be able to trust regular channels from violence, sex, horror, and bad language. What happened? Its time you punish the non-cable channels for broadcasting these types of shows instead of its viewers. Regardless of how big, loud, or obvious the ratings are, they will still be ignored. I think the rating systems are a waste of time when you should be trying to clean up the television programs instead.

*Kyle Howard*

Kyle Howard

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

CG MAIL ROOM

MAR 11 1997



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

My name is Jennifer Meyer. I have been a student at Moreau Catholic High School for two and a half years and I am in the process of taking a course in Ethics in Media. Our class is presently learning about the new rating system on television. This class has shown us the effects of television towards viewing audiences, particularly younger children. On behalf of our community, I have put together the reasons why this system does not satisfy our needs in the following segment.

We have learned that people can handle programs differently. The parent is always looking out for the child's best interest. Some parents want to know other people's input on what something should be rated, while some parents simply want to know the content of the program. Most parents are concerned with descriptive details, not just a simple age rating. All a parent can do with this system is rely on what these ratings say. That is where the dilemma arises. Parents have various opinions on what their child can and cannot watch. These ratings need to be more specific. There should be more detail on violence, language, sex and drugs. For instance having 'v' enclosed in a box, signifying violence. With this easy solution we can save a lot of questions about what we are watching. People can make up their own choices on what they are viewing. This is just a start, but it is a step in the right direction as well. I hope you will consider the suggestion I have brought before you and bring this issue to a close.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Meyer

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 5, 1997

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

I am a high school junior and am currently enrolled in a class called Ethics in Media. We have been studying the rating system for a few weeks. I believe that I have a clear understanding of how the system works and what its purpose is. I would like to express to you my feelings and suggestions regarding the system.

The rating system is a good idea, but it may not work well in all homes. The rating box appears for a few seconds at the beginning of a program, disappears, and never comes back. If a parent were to turn on a program a few minutes after it has started, they would have no way of knowing if the show is safe enough for their children to watch. I have noticed that some programs show the rating in the beginning of a program and again after returning from every commercial break. If this was done for every television show, then the rating system could possibly be more effective. I do have a suggestion on how to improve the system. Along with what is shown now, PG or PG-14, it would be helpful if another rating was also given to explain the contents of the show; for example: H for Horror, V for Violence, S for Sex, and L for Language. I believe this addition to the rating system would help parents find the best programs for their children to watch.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Thurston

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**DO NOT REPRODUCE ORIGINAL**

March 5, 1997

Dear FCC,

My name is Cheryl Martinez and I am a junior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. I am currently taking an Ethics in Media Communications class and we are studying the rating system on television. We have covered what they symbolize and the purpose they serve, and I have some comments and suggestions for you.

I don't think the rating system is as effective as it should be and I doubt it will be as successful as you and I both want it to be. The symbols are put up for a minimal amount of time and won't have an impact unless the parents are there to view the programs with their children, which is usually not the case. To improve this, you should either run the rating symbol longer, or even better, before each program, or set of similar programs, have a visual or audio statement of what audiences should be watching and which should not be. If that takes too much air space and costs too much, the warning should just be as obvious as it can be.

Maybe the real problem here is the lack of parental discretion. Kids can view anything they please when they're home alone, or even at a friend's house, and sometimes parents just ignore it. We may need further education (or *media literacy*, if you will), about the media, differentiating what is real, fake, bad, and good. I think what you are doing is with good intention, but it may not work.

In conclusion, I'd just like to say on behalf of American viewers, we know you are trying, but sometimes it's just not enough.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Martinez

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE



FOOD MAIL ROOM

MAR 11 1997

7:10 PM

CS 97-55

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MARCH 3, 1997

Dear Federal Communications Commissions,

I am a high school student attending a class titled "Ethics in the Media". This class has given me the chance to view television in a different manner.

The issue of rating television seems to be working to some extent. In my opinion the process of flashing a warning of content due to age, doesn't seem to be enough. Maybe you can flash that warning several times during the program in case someone were to miss it. In fact I'm not even sure most of the viewing public pays attention. The system seems to have the right idea, but it might not be working like it was intended to. Most of the programs I watch, I usually catch the beginning including the rating. There is one thing that I think can be improved. It's the rating itself, the ratings are based on age. Many programs are not suggested for certain age groups to watch a certain show, but it doesn't necessarily mean they are mature enough though they meet the age requirements. This system just popped up out of no where. I'm not even sure children realize that these ratings are around. If their parents aren't there to catch the rating at the beginning of the program then the system might not work. All of this seems to be a step in right direction, but maybe children can learn to watch television in a different way.

I've got to say though it's a start. I mean just last year there was almost no warning to the content of a television show. With a few modifications this new rating system can probably work. More and more people seem to be looking aimlessly at the television screen, and maybe with a brief interruptions in the credits some will start to pay more and more attention. With the content of the programming today these ratings have showed just in time.

ENRICO DESLATE

*Enrico Deslate*

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABOVE

1



C597-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear FCC,

I think the television ratings system is not good enough. Personally, I do not think there should even be one, but since there is, then the one existing needs to be improved. The system used right now is too simplistic. The ratings care too much about how old the viewer is and not about what is in the content of the show. The ratings say nothing about whether the show has violence, horror, language, nudity, or sexual innuendoes. Maybe parents have no complaint about their children watching violence, but do for sex or language. The "TVM" rating discloses no information as to why the show is for mature audiences, leaving the audience guessing what is in the program to make it for mature people. There should be a new ratings system with the following criteria: violence, language, sexual content, horror, and possibly another category dealing with disturbing themes and issues. I remember the television movie about David Koresh was one of the scariest movies I have ever seen, not because of the violence, but the situation and theme the movie dealt with. The system should also tell to what extent the categories go to, if any. I hope you gain some valuable feedback from this letter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern,

I would first like to thank the the television broadcasters who have taken the time, and are finally seeing the importance of informing parents about what their children are going to be seeing. It is a giant step towards parents and the media working together to help to inform the children of this country.

My name is Lauren Clark, and I am a senior at Moreau Catholic High School. For the past month we have been examining how the media effects all us, both children and adults. Until we began really looking at what consists of the programs that are aired on television, I merely watched the shows, and took no real notice of how its content may be effecting some audiences. A great deal of the shows that are on TV can be very misleading for children who have no one to explain to them what is going on.

By implementing the new rating system we are taking a step to becoming a more educated viewing society. Maybe now that people will be able to see what the program consists of, even if it is a simple warning symbol, it will awaken people, and convince them that they must be more conscientious of what they are viewing.

Although the new system might not be exactly what we need, at least we are now attempting to work together, and become better informed about the media.

Sincerely,



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

My name is Dilan Loya and I am a senior at Moreau Catholic High School. I am presently taking a class called Ethics in Media Communications. In this class, we study and observe the media and its effects on society. Recently, we tried to see if T.V. can kill. I feel that television can freely show many things but the content of violence and sex should be controlled or warned of its contents in advance. People do watch these things though and how they take it in and control themselves is up to the individual.

About the television rating system displayed before a show, I feel that it is a good idea. I think though that they are intended for the children and that they are only good if someone explains the system to them and if there is someone in there to restrict them from watching what the kids should. In other words, it is good but useless if it is not enforced. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Dilan Loya

30 MAIL ROOM

MAR 11 1997



CS97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Television is probably the single most influential technological phenomenon for American culture in the twentieth century. Why does it consume the lives of not only Americans, but of all people worldwide with ages ranging from zero to 100? No one really knows, but television networks obviously know what the people want to see, whether it be good or bad.

Hi, my name is Marylou Atayde and I'm a senior at Moreau Catholic High School. In my Mass Media class, my classmates and I have been discussing and studying the new TV rating system now being used on all major television networks to let the viewer get an idea of what kind of content will be shown on the show. Most importantly, the rating system is to let parents know what shows are suitable for their children to watch. This system is an attempt to stop the controversy between concerned parents and TV networks with what is being shown on this addicting piece of machinery.

Personally, I feel it is the parents responsibility to regulate the amount and the content of television their children watch each day. I think this rating system is a very good idea and if it still doesn't work, then that is the parents' fault. I understand that it is hard for parents to always keep watch of their children's actions and TV is sometimes an easy distraction for busy parents, but just like any toy or apparatus a child plays with or associates with, if a parent does not feel it is 100 percent safe, they should not let a child play or associate with it.

Television is a booming business which employs many Americans as well as helps our economy and should not be harshly criticized for having some "evil" qualities. Sure, it sometimes goes overboard with the sex and the violence and its unrealistic nature, but it is only reflecting society today and creates fantasies people cannot participate in the real world, but can re-live for a half an hour or so. Room for improvement? Of course, but so does every new idea. A few suggestions would be to show the little rating caption more often during the show for "just tuning in" viewers. Also, in the beginning of a show, perhaps give a brief summary of what the show might include such as vulgar language, nudity, etc.. Last of all, the V-chip is a great idea, but what about an S-chip for sex and an H-chip for horror? Everyone would agree that it would be a much better way to stop children from viewing inappropriate actions for their age on TV. Thank you for taking time out to read my letter as well as the letters of my fellow classmates.

Sincerely,

*Marylou Atayde*



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

## MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

### Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear FCC,

Hello, my name is Gina Capasin. I am a student at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. I am taking a media ethics class where we have been studying the effects of television programs on certain types of people and also the rating systems of those programs. I would like to express my thoughts and concerns about your procedures and hope you will take my suggestions into consideration.

There are a few questions I've been wanting to ask concerning the rating system. Here's a scenario. I turn on the television with my little cousins and I look to find a horror scene that would scare any child. I just happen to turn the TV on right after the rating turned off, so I wasn't able to see what type of rating the program was given. Would this have been prevented if the rating was left on in the upper left hand corner of my TV throughout the duration of the program? I believe so. It seems so sensible to leave the rating on.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope my suggestion helped in planning future plans for viewers like me.

Sincerely,  
Gina M. Capasin

FCC MAIL ROOM



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

RECEIVED

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

These letters are the result of a class project. This is a class title ETHICS IN MEDIA COMMUNICATION, having as one of its objectives MEDIA LITERACY. As a result, we have been following and discussing the process of television rating, evaluating its pro and cons. I asked to students to participate in providing feed-back to you and expressing their opinions and thoughts on the matter. I hope they will be helpful. I think the classes would enjoy and appreciate a response of some form or other from you.

Thank you.

Larry Long  
Instructor



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

## MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

### **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern:

My name is Noah Bowers and I am a junior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. I am presently taking a class called Ethics in Media Communications and we have been studying the new ratings system. We have looked at how the system works, and then analyzed the positive and negative effects of the new system.

I believe that a ratings system is necessary and this is a good attempt, but it must become more explicit because just displaying some letters and numbers is not enough. It needs to define why a movie or television show is rated the way it is for such areas as sex or nudity, profanity, violence, and horror. The length of time is too short and the size of the rating which is displayed is too small. I have heard it is shown again after each segment of commercials for fifteen seconds, which is a good idea, but most people don't watch all the way through the commercials. They change the channel when commercials come on and don't flip back until after the commercials are over and the rating of the show has already flashed on and off and therefore miss it. The rating also needs to be shown bigger since it may be difficult to distinguish it at the corner, especially at a distance.

I hope this criticism is helpful, as it is meant to be.

Sincerely,

*Noah Bowers*

Noah Bowers





CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Federal Communications Commision,

I'm writing to you in concern with the rating system. I am a junior in high school taking a class about Ethics in the Media. I watch television every night and always on the weekends, whether i'm watching it or not. My media class has introduced the idea of how influential television really is. If it can easily influence the opinions of a pretty well valued person, imagine the impact it has on kids watching what others do. I applaud the idea of the rating system, but I don't think it's working to its full effect.

When the rating system was first introduced I was confused with all the different letters and numbers. But slowly I understood the age system. Okay, so now we know what ages should watch, but what are they watching? Violence, sex, horror, language, or even dumbness. A solution that my class suggests would be visuals. The visuals could be used to aware the parents just what their kid will be watching. And with visuals they can know what's going on the program even if they're never seen the program. Television has a huge impact on peoples minds and it influences their actions. I am concerned about the future of this nation. Please take my letter into concideration.

Sincerely,

*Susanne Boersma*

Susanne Boersma

REC'D 1



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern:

I am a student at Moreau Catholic High School. I am currently a junior and I am taking a class in Ethics in Media Communications. We have been studying the rating system you are using on television programs.

I think that the rating system on the programs you are using is a good idea. It gives parents an idea of how the program their child is watching is rated. The parents can determine whether or not the program is suitable for their children's viewing. Parents will now know what their children are watching. The V chip is also a good idea. It can block out the programs parents do not want their children to watch. Now the parents will not have to worry about the programs on television.

Although I think your rating system is a good idea, I also think it is a bad idea. Not all parents are around when their children are watching television. Also, you only leave it on for a few seconds before each program and after the commercials. I think you should leave it on for the entire program, so that parents can see how it is rated. Sometimes the ratings can be too lenient or too strict. I like the V chip idea, but it is full proof. It does block out the programs that parents do not want their children to see, but parents will not know all the programs to block out. They might leave some programs out, so their children will be able to watch these programs.

I think that your attempts to help parents in controlling what their children watch is a good idea. Also, there are many drawbacks to the attempts in controlling the programs children watch.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Dela Vega*

Joseph Dela Vega

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL  
~~DEAR FATHER ALAN BOARD,~~

I am a student at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. Currently at this time, I am studying Mass Media and Ethics and I have been following the new TV Ratings System. I think that this new system will help parents to regulate what their children can and can not watch on television. However, I think that there are two key changes that need to be made. One thing, I don't think that the rating, "TV-YT" is not necessary. I think the rating, "TV-Y," would cover "TV-YT." Another thing, I think the rating, "TV-M," does it get that for violence, sex, language, or all? If these improvements are made, I think the ratings system will do well. Thank you for your time and keep up the good work.

your pal,  
JAVIN BATAAN  
Jim Bataa

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



CS 97-55

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

March 5, 1997

as a student at Moreau Catholic High School who is currently studying TV ratings, I feel the need to make a few comments. The only rating system that I knew about was for films. During my research at Moreau, I have come across a new rating system -- a TV rating system. My first thought on the matter was "What do all of these letters mean?" Being determined to find out, I did a little more research, I was unsatisfied with my results; I had learned about a confusing rating system. The system currently being used needs to be clarified. If I were a parent, I would want to know exactly how inappropriate a TV show may be. I feel I have the right to know what to expect from a TV show before I let a youngster view it. As an older sister, I can stand behind the way I feel very strongly.

It would be a great convenience to everyone who watches TV to add an extra icon when sex, offensive remarks, racism, violence, horror, etc. will follow in a given show. It certainly will not be anything new, just a clarification greatly appreciated.

Concerned,

Kelly Oschegger

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

1



CS97-55

## MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

### **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To Whom it may Concern,

Hello, my name is Stefanie Harris and I am currently enrolled in a class dealing with ethics in media communications. Over the past weeks we have been studying the new television rating system in all aspects. We have looked at the need for such a system, the advantages and disadvantages of this system, and also looked at what works about it, and what does not. Our class has also discussed what we believe should be done to make the rating system a better and more useful guide for parents to use when deciding if their child(ren) should be able to watch a certain program. The purpose of this letter is to convey to you my opinions about the new television rating system.

After two months with the new rating system, I believe that it is rather ineffective. The extremely small icon located in the left hand corner of the screen, only for a few seconds at the start of each program does not accomplish the job it was created to. Also the lack of the mentioning of the rating given to shows on commercials is another reason why I believe this system is inadequate. The commercials need to contain the rating of the show so that the parents know before it is viewed in their household. I do however, think that this is a consequential start to a more applicable system to come later in the future. My suggestion to make the rating system more useful, is to, underneath the rating which appears now, create new icons that would show why it received such a rating. For example, if a show was to be rated PG-14, and it contained some violence, along with offensive language, below the PG-14 should be a V for the violence, and a L for the language contained in the show. I conceive these to be worthy ideas because I believe the rating system is extremely vague, and has no explanation available to clarify why such a rating was given to a show. I hope this recommendation is helpful to you and your staff, and thank you very much for your time.

Thank You,

Stefanie Harris

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

1



CS 97-55

PAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ethics in Media Communications**

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear FCC,

My name is Carla Bellusa and I am 16 years old. I attend Moreau Catholic High School and am in the eleventh grade. I am currently studying the course of Ethics in Media Communications. In this class we study television and what effect it has on our society. Television is more than just for a viewers enjoyment, if looked at in a more critical sense. There are a lot differing opinions as to if television is a positive or a negative. In Mass Media we have watched programs that have actually done studies on children to see if there is a connection between their behaviors and the behaviors portrayed on TV. A lot of young children are not aware yet that most things on television are made up and that it is not okay to act in the manner that characters on programs do. Some people say this unawareness is one of the causes of the violence in our society today. They believe TV has taught these actions are okay. I, on the other hand, do not agree with that. I think it is the parents fault for not viewing what their kids are watching before the children are allowed to view. The new rating system that is shown on the screen before the show starts is good addition to TV. It creates an awareness as to what might be involved in the program. Hopefully parents will take it in to consideration and use this information wisely.

Sincerely,  
Carla Bellusa

*Carla Bellusa*

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

FCC MAIL ROOM



CS 97-55

MAR 11 1997

MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Dear Federal Communications Commission,

Hello, my name is Lena Tsai, and I am a junior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. I am taking a class called Mass Media. We analyze the media and the affects that it has on our lives. We have been studying the rating system, it's shortcomings and disadvantages, and the need for the system.

The ratings are confusing and do not reveal the content of the program. How are parents suppose to know what kind of content is used, the amount of violence, and the amount of profanity in a show with a TV-14 rating. The rating just implies that the show is not appropriate for children under fourteen. Why the age fourteen? In the movie industry, they use the age nineteen. Do children need to be more mature to watch TV compared to movies? Parents would like to know what each show is about. For example, is a show that is rated for TV-14, given the amount of violence or language? Some parents do not want their children watching violence but they have a difficult time finding programs that have sex or nudity. I feel that the FCC needs to provide more information about the content of the program. Instead of using age based ratings, the TV industry can use symbols. Symbols can reveal the type of content each show

continue on the back ↘

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

...if time the rating is displayed is not long enough. Many people channel surf and might miss the beginning of the program where the rating is revealed. The size of the rating should be bigger and more noticeable. The rating should be displayed after each commercial break, in case some of the viewers miss it in the beginning of the program. Many of the ratings are inconsistent and are not appropriate by the content of the show. The TV producers should not rate their own shows. An independent group should be in charge of that. This will eliminate many of the inconsistencies. The ratings need to be more stringent. Many of the TV shows have the rating TV-PG when in fact they deserve a TV-14. TV producers are more interested in the number of people watching their program instead of rating their programs properly.

The rating system needs a great deal of improvements. Without the help of parents, this TV rating system will be a failure. It is the parents' responsibility to regulate what kind of television their children are exposed to. We need to encourage parents to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lena Tsai



FCC MAIL ROOM



CO 97-55

MAR 11 1997

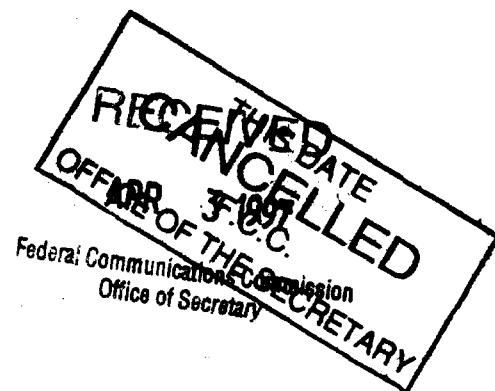
MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Ethics in Media Communications

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Dear Federal Communications Commission,

Hello, my name is Lena Tsai, and I am a junior at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California. I am taking a class called Mass Media. We analyze the media and the affects that it has on our lives. We have been studying the rating system, it's advantages and disadvantages, and the need for the system.

The ratings are confusing and do not reveal the content of the program. How are parents suppose to know what kind of language is used, the amount of violence, and the amount of sexual acts are in a show with a TV-14 rating. The rating just indicates that the show is not appropriate for children under thirteen. Why the age fourteen? In the movie industry, they use age thirteen. Do children need to be more mature to watch TV compared to movies? Parents would like to know what each show is rated for. For example, is a show that is rated for TV-14, given that rating because of violence or language? Some parents do not mind their children watching violence but they have a difficult time with programs that have sex or nudity. I feel that the FCC need to provide more information about the content of the program. Instead of using age based ratings, the TV industry can use symbols. Symbols can reveal the type of content each show

continue on the back

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE